

Bjornson on Rivalries and Alliances of Nations

Famous Norwegian Regrets Friendliness of United States for Russia and Predicts It Will Lead to Disaster—The Union of Opposites

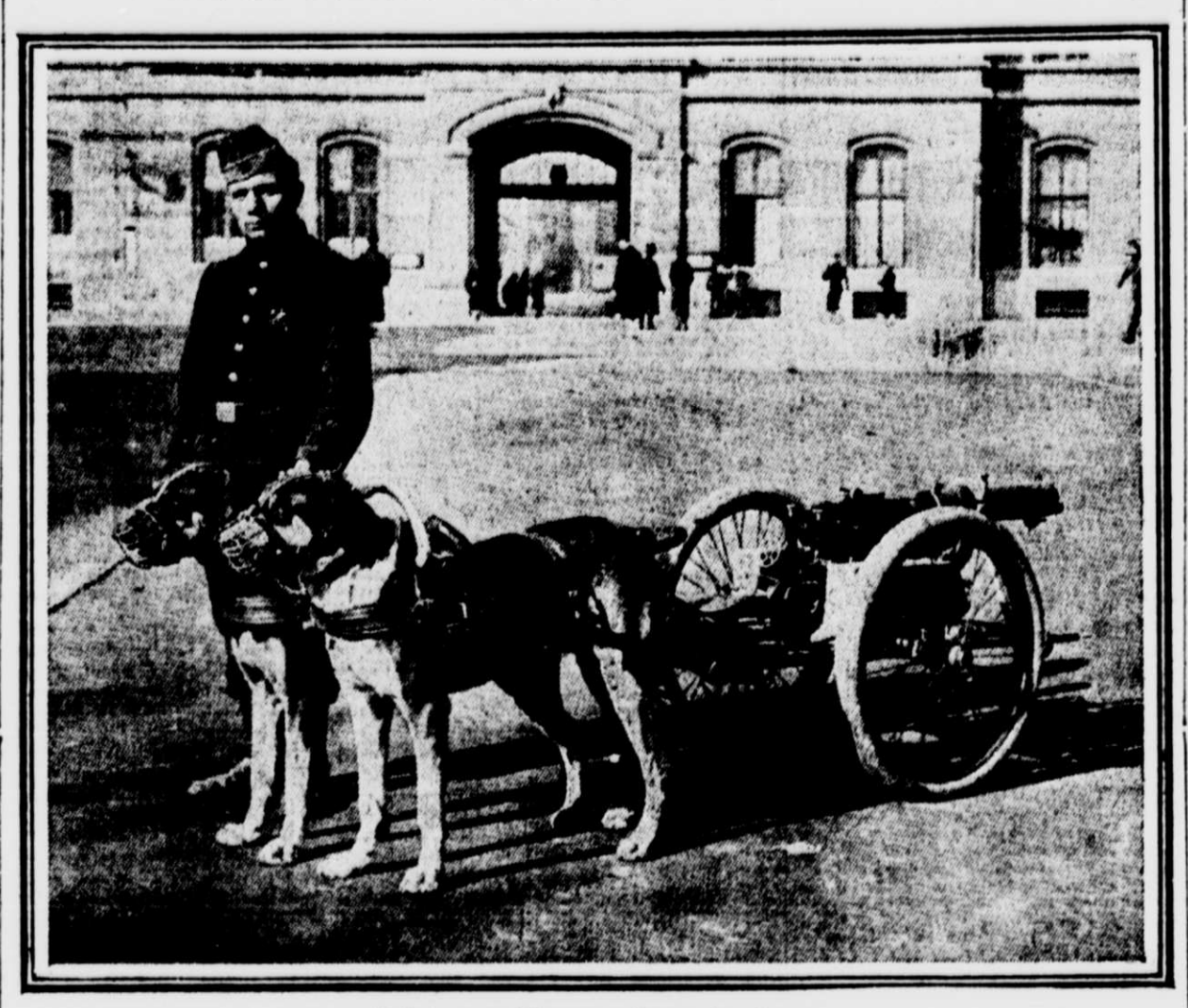
By L. WHITE BUSHEY.

ALLIANCES between great nations are like happy marriages, the union of opposites. This seems to be true to-day as it was some years ago when Bjornstjerne Bjornson, the Norwegian poet and dramatist, used the illustration in reference to the traditional friendship between the United States and Russia. I was a summer idler in Paris and one morning received an invitation from Mr. Bjornson to take tea with him at his home in the suburbs of the French capital. I had met him in Chicago when he made his first visit to this country and he kindly recalled that meeting in his invitation. It is needless to say that the young American was pleased with the compliment and set out at once for the suburban retreat of the great Norwegian. I was at once shown into the little garden which was Bjornson's workshop as well as his place of recreation, and his greeting was even more cordial than his note of invitation. He at once began to recall incidents of his visit to the United States and spoke with enthusiasm of the West, where he found so many of his own compatriots prosperous, happy and loyal American citizens. His talk was filled with optimism as to the future of this country, where men of all nationalities and even of all races not only lived in harmony but became loyal citizens and heartily co-operated in their efforts to make this the greatest and most prosperous nation in the world and demonstrate the vitality of the principles of democracy.

Suddenly the big Norwegian rose from his rustic chair, strode about the little garden for a minute or two and then turning to me as his lone auditor changed the drift of his monologue to a discussion of international alliances. He spoke of the jealousies and rivalries of European nations and their tendency to seek alliances with their opposites instead of cooperating along lines which they all professed to be working to develop civilization.

"Your United States is not an exception to this rule," said he, with a shake of his big head. "There the fairest product of civilization has taken to her bosom the great Russian Bear and we have an alliance of distinct opposites as the greatest tradition in international relations. These two great nations, representing the extremes in government, are in alliance against all Western Europe. I know you will say that there is no alliance between Russia and the United States, and I do not suppose there could be found in the official archives of any Government any evidence of an agreement between these two Powers to cooperate for their mutual advantage or an alliance either offensive or defensive. But there is today a better understanding and a firmer friendship between Russia and the United States than between any other civilized nations in the world. You call it a traditional friendship, and it is reciprocal. I do not blame the United States for acknowledging in many ways the great service of Czar Alexander when he sent his fleet to New York as a warning to England and France not to interfere in the great contest of

DOG TEAMS DRAW BELGIAN MACHINE GUNS TO FIRING LINE



Belgian machine gun drawn by dogs.

VARIOUS methods for the transportation of machine guns have been employed by the different military Powers, wagons, draught and pack animals, motors and soldiers' backs. The Belgians have lately experimented with dog teams and the results seem to be very satisfactory. The gun and the ammunition are carried on light two wheeled carts, each drawn by a pair of dogs.

The dogs are harnessed with yoke and breast strap, giving the animals great freedom and ease and at the same time, being closely coupled, complete control is secured. On good roads or in open country the driver may ride. It has been shown that the rate of march compares favorably with that of horse drawn guns.

The advantages claimed for the dog teams, aside from the cheapness, are that they may be used in country which would be impassable for larger animals; they present a smaller target for hostile fire and can utilize scatter and lower cover in going into position.

Well trained dogs pay no attention to hostile fire.

In some cases where it would be impossible for the teams and driver to cross a fire swept zone the dogs and guns have been held back under cover while the driver worked forward to a position by crawling and taking advantage of every possible cover. Once in position the driver whistles, the dogs are released and cross the open space at a run to join their master.

Holland is also experimenting with dog teams for machine guns.

Bjornson stopped short in his monologue and after a few moments of silence I asked which would prevail. "No prophet can see the outcome," replied the poet. "War destroys civilization and the battle at Armageddon resulted in chaos."

As I rode back into Paris that evening I jotted down in my diary the substance of this remarkable prophecy of the Norwegian poet and philosopher in the summer of 1887. Bjornstjerne Bjornson could not then foresee an alliance of Russia, England and France to protect Europe from the domination of the War Lord of Germany, with the United States as the only great neutral Power watching the battle at Armageddon and ready to aid in bringing back peace. Nor could he foresee the abrogation of the treaty of amity and friendship between the United States and Russia and their continuance of friendly relations without that formality under which international relations are now maintained. Traditional friendships may prove more effective bands of peace than triple alliances or triple ententes.

An American Editor's Trip Down the Rhine in War Time

Dr. H. S. Baketell Tells of His Experiences Escaping Into Holland From Germany—Soldiers on the Lookout for Hostile Aeroplanes

AMONG the American medical men who went abroad to attend the clinical congress in London last month was Dr. H. S. Baketell, editor of the *Medical Times*. How his subsequent trip through Europe was cut short by the war he describes in an article he has written for the forthcoming issue of his paper.

It was while in the beautiful city of Frankfurt, says Dr. Baketell, a place where medievalism and modernism are so delightfully blended, that we learned that war between Germany and Russia could only be averted by a miracle. Even then no one outside of those "on the inside" believed England and Belgium would be involved, and even the participation of France was only a possibility.

We watched the preparations for war with eager interest. All day we saw soldiers, soldiers, soldiers. Fine, upstanding young chaps, clean cut and erect, they marched by as gayly as if on their way to manoeuvres. For the moment we lost its grimness when one looked into the happy, smiling faces of those rosy cheeked German lads. Infantry, cavalry, field artillery in countless array passed to entrain. They were on their way to the Russian and French frontiers, and it is to think that some of those brightly uniformed, happy go lucky boys are among the 25,000 Germans who were sacrificed in the terrific fighting around Liege.

Deeming it advisable to leave Germany before any actual declaration of hostilities, we boarded an express steamer at Mainz for Cologne, only to learn after sailing that Germany had declared war on Russia that very day and that our steamer was the last which would go down the Rhine.

The voyage along that wonderful river is memorable. Not for its natural beauties, the glorious old castles that surmount its peaks, or the ghost haunted ruins, whose walls if they could speak would reveal almost unbelievable tales of war, rapine, plunder, love and intrigue, nor for the beautiful views of hill and valley, of vineyard and quaintly nestled village, but because stern visage of war was brought directly to our attention.

On an island below Mainz were mounted peculiarly shaped guns, especially designed to shoot aeroplanes. Every island in the river was carefully guarded. At either end of every railroad tunnel on each side of the river were infantrymen, who waved a genial salute as the steamer sped by. All quays were held by troops and every bridge had its full quota. The German corps could be seen stretching wires and field artillery was being mounted in advantageous positions.

At Coblenz and Bonn companies of soldiers were drawn up on the tops of buildings, intently gazing heavenward. They were watching for hostile aeroplanes, recognizing that they would play an important part in the war of to-day.

At Cologne soldiers were posted in the topmost peaks of the cathedral towers scanning the skies for French aeroplanes. Crowds of people thronged the square about the cathedral, with necks craned, as if to lighten the labors of the "rubberneck" soldiers.

It commenced. Much criticism has been directed against German civil, military and railway officials in English and American papers by tourists in Cologne. We must confess that while we were given much misinformation it was unintentionally imparted. It was a time of greatest stress, Germany was at war with one great Power and on the verge of a conflict in which its very existence was seriously threatened. The military was in control of the city and the railways. Confusion reigned and all men were irritable. We found that questions civilly asked were civilly answered and that the much complained of arrogance on the part of German officials was often due to incivility on the part of the tourist.

We were advised to abandon any thought of reaching London via a French or Belgian port and to go to Rotterdam at once, in view of the probability of Holland's neutrality. To our consternation we learned that all passenger trains would be cancelled that night in order to make way for troop trains. With the aid of an intelligent hotel porter we fairly fought our way into the passenger train. It was packed with a sweating, swearing mob, representing almost every nationality, each person wildly anxious to leave the beautiful empire, whose grain laden fields and wonderful vineyards had only that day seemed the very harbingers of peace. Despite wrong directions given us the faithful porter found our train just pulling out for Amsterdam. He pushed us aboard, even though it did not seem as if an infant could squeeze into that crowded fourteen carriage train. Men were hanging on "by their eyebrows" as it were, and despite the possession of a first class ticket we were delighted to stand up in a third class corridor tightly wedged in between two odorous Dutch women of generous proportions.

The beautiful scenery lost its attractiveness and instead of "sunsets and hill and dale" our mind wandered back to our childhood's teachings—"Cleanliness is next to godliness," and we wished there were less godliness in Holland.

Notwithstanding these olfactory afflictions we were glad to be on our way and maintained a meek and humble attitude. The conductor advised all refugees to make for Rotterdam instead of Amsterdam, a suggestion with which we eagerly complied. The scheduled time between Cologne and Rotterdam is four hours and fifteen minutes, but it took us over fourteen hours of the most unpleasant travel.

We made good time to Dusseldorf, where the train was searched by German soldiers for any Germans who were attempting to escape and thereby evade military duty. Upon reaching the bridge crossing the Rhine we were held up two hours. The bridge had been mined and it was necessary to disconnect the electrical connections before we crossed. As our train stood there, guarded on either side by soldiers, train after train of empty passenger and freight cars passed us going toward Cologne. Holland, as a neutral country, was sending all German cars out of its territory. When the bridge was safely passable we were ordered to close every window and not to look out. We slowly crossed. Disregarding instructions, we kept our eyes wide open and saw that the bridge was heavily guarded.

At the last German station before the Dutch frontier we were hurried out with such baggage as we had (our trunks had been left in Cologne) and compelled to show our passports or to

A Few Striking Features in Next Sunday's Sun

A Page of Remarkable Pictures Showing Scenes in War Racked Belgium

Among these photographs are ones which show the Belgian town of Vise on fire, the palace converted into a hospital and troops marching out of Brussels for the front.

When the Frenchmen's Dream Became a Reality

An American woman, long resident in Paris, describes the thrill that went through the city when the long expected chance to take the field against the Germans came.

Revelations of the Kaiser's Personal Spy

Dr. Graves, "most dangerous spy of the century," tells for the first time, so far as it is possible for any one man to give them, the inside workings of the great German war machine.

Japan's Strong and Speedy Fighters of the Sea

Her naval strength is so great the country would have excellent chance of defeating Germany even if latter were not fighting allies.

Diplomacy's Part in Electing a New Pope of Rome

A remarkable and almost prophetic article written by Vance Thompson when the Pope lay ill, almost to death, three years ago. The vision of St. Malachy and how it was fulfilled.

Where Silk and Tea Have Been Idealized

J. I. C. Clarke, who has just returned from a tour of the Mikado's land, tells of the dainty business of silk culture that brings Japan \$50,000,000 a year.

In Next Sunday's Sun ORDER YOUR COPY TO-DAY!

War Will Change Map of Europe

Continued from First Page.

cial resources are well nigh inexhaustible. In 1871, at the close of the, to her, so disastrous war with Germany, which had left the entire country at the mercy of the invader, and when ruin and desolation had spread all over the land, the peasants from their hidden resources paid with so much ease and rapidity the colossal war indemnity exacted by Bismarck that the old Chancellor to his dying day regretted profoundly not having asked for double or treble the amount. And so it will be in the present war. No matter whether France is victorious or whether for a time her fair land is once more overrun by German armies, as forty-four years ago, she may always be relied upon to dig up from somewhere when needed money in apparently inexhaustible quantities to continue the fight against the enemy. And in these wars of nations it is money that tells in the long run. It was the lack of money alone that prevented Japan in 1905 from continuing her war with Russia, from pushing it to its logical conclusion, and which compelled her to submit as at the close of the previous campaign against China, to the loss of many of the most valuable fruits of her victory.

If the Triple Entente wins in the long run, in the present war, which seems like a foregone conclusion, it will be a matter for very grave thought as to what degree Germany should be made to suffer for having disturbed the peace, not merely of Europe, but of the entire world. For, as indicated above, Asia, Australasia, Africa, and the whole of this Western Hemisphere are affected by the present conflict, and that too in a manner calculated to cause all sorts of political and economic troubles.

Of course there will be a disposition to force Germany to pay the penalty for all this, and also to punish her for having by the constant increase of her armaments, and by her perpetually menacing attitude, compelled most of the other great Powers of Europe, and even a number of small ones, to embark in such ruinous expenditures for purposes of defence as to bring the nations concerned to the verge of bankruptcy and their population to the brink of revolution, owing to the intolerable burden of taxation rendered necessary thereby.

The members of the Triple Entente, and those of the Governments which have thrown in their lot with them, will be anxious to reduce Germany to a sufficient degree of impotency to admit of a wholesale reduction of armaments, and even a limitation thereof, in all parts of the world, for the sake of securing something akin to a lasting peace and full freedom for industrial and commercial development, undisturbed by the apprehension of war.

The United States is quite as much interested as are Great Britain, France and Russia in bringing about this elimination of the curse of militarism, and of the ever haunting spectre of war, by the international limitation of

armaments. But it would be unwise if she were to lend herself to a too complete dismemberment of either the German or the Austrian empire. Both are needed to preserve in a measure the equilibrium of power and to prevent the abnormal development of the might of one or the other of the Governments of the Triple Entente. It would not help the cause of international peace, or serve American interests, if the Teutonic menace were to be succeeded by a Slav peril. Indeed, all the influence of Uncle Sam on the cessation of hostilities should be exercised in softening the resentment of the victors against the vanquished, and in obtaining merciful terms for the defeated, that is to say, terms leaving the least possible degree of rancor and of yearnings for revenge.

Otherwise the German Empire may be disrupted, the Kaiser reduced to his role of King of Prussia, with his monarchy shorn of the Duchy of Posen, which would go, along with Austrian Poland, to form, in conjunction with Russian Poland, an autonomous Polish State, subject to the suzerainty of the Czar. Great Britain and France would share between them the Kaiser's colonial possessions in Africa, and England would thus be in a position to fulfill the dream of Cecil Rhodes of running a railroad from the Cape of Good Hope to the shores of the Mediterranean, at Alexandria, on wholly British territory.

Belgium, too, would be rewarded for the gallant resistance which she has offered to the Kaiser's invasion of France across her territory by the acquisition of a slice of German territory adjoining her own colony of the Congo. The Kaiser, moreover, would undoubtedly be forced to restore to Denmark her Duchies of Schleswig and Holstein, while the kingdoms of Saxony, of Wurtemberg and of Bavaria and the other States of the German Empire would be emancipated from their oppressive subjection to Prussia, under which they have long groaned.

There would, however, be no disposition to dismember the dual empire, and the most that the latter would be called upon to surrender, besides her Polish province of Galicia to Russia, would be Herzegovina and possibly Bosnia to Serbia, as Russia's protégée.

For whereas the maintenance of the German Empire in its present constitution, as created by Bismarck, with blood and iron, in 1866 and 1870, has stood for war in the eyes of the world, the Hapsburg monarchy, by uniting under one universally beloved ruler, and in a bond of common affection and loyalty toward their knightly old sovereign, some sixteen rival races, which would otherwise have been constantly fighting with one another, has ever stood for peace. That is why it is to the interest of the cause of universal peace that on the conclusion of the present war the dual monarchy should be preserved as far as possible in its present condition.

VALUE OF A SHADE TREE.

According to a bulletin of the Massachusetts Forestry Association, to determine the value of shade trees on streets the advice of practical real estate men was sought. A large number of these men were asked this question: "How much, in your judgment, do full grown shade trees along the street improve the value of the adjoining land for house lots?" The majority of answers ranged from 10 to 50 per cent., while some went so far as to state that a house lot would be worth 100 per cent. more if full shade trees were standing in front of it. A fair average of these answers falls between 25 and 40 per cent. Expert tree appraisers say that a shade tree in good condition and well placed is worth \$1 per square inch of cross-section measured at breast height. At that rate a tree one foot in diameter is worth \$112.50, a tree two feet in diameter is worth \$225.00, and a tree three feet in diameter is worth \$337.50. For the sake of illustration suppose that we take a good sized house lot, 50x100 feet, or 5,000 square feet, worth 25 cents a foot. The land value is \$1,250. If the trees are spaced 50 feet apart on the street there would be one tree in front of the property. The tree is two feet in diameter and worth \$450, which would increase the value of the lot 36 per cent.